

Huntsville

## Training the Army's First Responders at Redstone

May 3, 2005

The scenario Tuesday at Redstone Arsenal was a chemical accident, and students at the Army's Technical Escort School responded. They assessed the accident, recovered casualties, and decontaminated the injured. It was just one day in a three-week, three-day course that's designed to prepare the military's first responders.

"It's very important because the soldiers we have here will be the first line of defense. Some of them for terrorism that happens in this country, and some of them going overseas and protecting our soldiers overseas," says Sergeant First Class Adrain Dudley, The NCO in Charge at the Technical Escort School.

Sergeant Dudley was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and this Birmingham native says Technical Escort soldiers are like civilian hazardous materials teams, but different because they might get shot at while working.

On this training day, there's no shooting, but the training is tough and realistic, and the soldiers appreciate it.

"It's good training, and certainly every mistake you make in training is not something you're not going to do in a real incident when you're operational. It's really good stuff," says Sergeant David Walk of the 3rd Civil Support team out of Pennsylvania. The training is what you might call the foundation course for a very important duty. Veteran instructor and former civilian hazmat responder Greg Avila says the learning will continue.

"Training shouldn't stop here at the end of this school. This is just the beginning of the adventure for these students," says Avila.

Once trained, these students will be expected to respond anytime, anywhere in the United States and around the world. When they do respond to chemical, biological, or even nuclear accidents, they'll all take a little Redstone Arsenal with them. In fact, every Technical Escort soldier in the Army has, or will be, trained at Redstone.



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